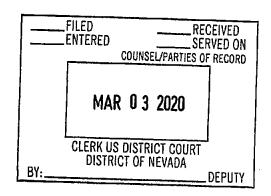
NICHOLAS A. TRUTANICH 1 United States Attorney 2 District of Nevada Nevada Bar Number 13644 Shaheen P. Torgoley Assistant United States Attorney 501 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Suite 1100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Phone: (702) 388-6336 5 Shaheen.Torgoley@usdoj.gov Attorneys for the United States of America 6 7 8 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Plaintiff, 10



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

BRANDON PATTON,

Defendant.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

No. 2:19-CR-209-APG-EJY

Plea Agreement for Defendant Brandon Patton Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(A) and (B)

This plea agreement between BRANDON PATTON ("defendant") and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nevada (the "USAO") sets forth the parties' agreement regarding the criminal charges referenced herein and the applicable sentences and fines in the above-captioned case. This agreement binds only defendant and the USAO and does not bind the district court, the U.S. Probation Office, or any other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting, enforcement, administrative, or regulatory authorities. This agreement does not prohibit the USAO or any agency or third party from seeking any other civil or administrative remedies, including civil forfeiture *in rem*, directly or indirectly against defendant or defendant's property.

This agreement becomes effective upon signature by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney.

I. DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS

1. Defendant agrees to:

Firearm.

a. At the earliest opportunity requested by the USAO and provided by the district court, appear and plead guilty to Counts 2, 3, and 4 of the indictment in this case, which charges defendant with: in count 2, a violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(D)—Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance (Marijuana); in count 3, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)—Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug-Trafficking Offense;

and, in count 4, a violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2)—Felon in Possession of a

- b. Stipulate to the facts agreed to in this agreement;
- c. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement;
- d. Not seek to withdraw defendant's guilty plea once it is entered;
- e. Appear for all court appearances, surrender as ordered for service of sentence, obey all conditions of any bond, and obey any other ongoing court order in this matter;
 - f. Not commit any federal, state, or local crime;
- g. Be truthful at all times with the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Offices and the Court;
- h. Before and after sentencing, upon request by the Court, the USAO, or the Probation Office, provide accurate and complete financial information, submit sworn statements, and/or give depositions under oath concerning defendant's assets and defendant's ability to pay. As part of the required disclosure, defendant agrees to provide any and all financial information and authorizations requested by the Probation Office for preparation of the Presentence Report. Defendant further agrees that, upon filing of this agreement, the USAO is authorized to obtain defendant's credit report. Defendant will also complete a financial form

9

10 11

12

14

13

15

16

17

18

19 20

21

22 23

24

provided by the USAO, to include all supporting documentation, and return it to the USAO within three (3) weeks from entry of the plea. Defendant agrees that the district court may enter any order necessary to effectuate or facilitate disclosure of defendant's financial information.

To facilitate payment of any fine, forfeiture, restitution, or assessment, i. surrender assets defendant obtained directly or indirectly as a result of defendant's crimes. Defendant agrees to voluntarily release funds and property under defendant's control or in which defendant has any property interest, before and after sentencing, to pay any fine or restitution identified in this agreement, agreed to by the parties, or ordered by the Court.

II. THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

- The USAO agrees to: 2.
 - Stipulate to facts agreed to in this agreement; a.
 - Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement; b.
- At sentencing, provided that defendant demonstrates an acceptance of c. responsibility for the offenses up to and including the time of sentencing, recommend a two-level reduction in the applicable sentencing guidelines offense level, pursuant to USSG § 3E1.1, and move for an additional one-level reduction if available under that section;
- At sentencing, move to dismiss count 1 of the indictment against d. defendant. Defendant agrees, however, that the district court may consider any dismissed charges in determining the applicable sentencing guidelines range, the propriety and extent of any departure from that range, and the sentence to be imposed; and
- Not bring any additional charges against defendant arising out of the e. factual basis set forth in this agreement. However, the USAO reserves the right to prosecute defendant for (a) any crime of violence as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 16; and (b) any criminal tax violations (including conspiracy to commit such violations chargeable under 18 U.S.C. § 371).

1	Defendant agrees that the district court at sentencing may consider any uncharged conduct in
2	determining the applicable sentencing guidelines range, the propriety and extent of any departure
3	from that range, and the sentence to be imposed after consideration of the sentencing guidelines
4	and all other relevant factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).
5	III. ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSES
6	3. <u>Count Two</u> : The elements of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(D)—Possession
7	with Intent to Distribute ("PWID") a Controlled Substance, Marijuana, are as follows:
8	First, the defendant knowingly possessed marijuana; and
9	Second, the defendant possessed it with the intent to distribute it to another person.
10	9th Cir. Pattern Jury Instruction 9.15.
11	4. Count Three: The elements of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)—Possession of a Firearm in
12	Furtherance of a Drug-Trafficking Offense are as follows:
13	First, the defendant committed the crime of PWID, as charged in Count 2, which is a
14	drug-trafficking crime;
15	Second, the defendant knowingly possessed a firearm; and
16	Third, the defendant possessed the firearm in furtherance of the crime of PWID.
17	9th Cir. Pattern Jury Instruction 8.72.
18	
19	5. <u>Count Four</u> : The elements of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2)—Felon in Possession of a Firearm are as follows:
20	
21	First, the defendant knowingly possessed a handgun; Second, at the time of the possession, defendant had been convicted in a court of a crime
22	punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year;
23	Third, at the time the defendant possessed the defendant knew that he had been
24	convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year; and

Fourth, the handgun had been shipped between a foreign nation and the United States.

Post-Rehaif jury instruction, modifying the 9th Circuit's Instruction Pattern 8.65A.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF CONVICTION

6. Maximum and Minimum Statutory Penalties:

- a. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence the district court can impose for a violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(D), as charged in Count 2, is: Five years imprisonment; up to a lifetime of supervised release (with a minimum two-year period); a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offenses, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- b. Defendant understands that the statutory mandatory minimum sentence that the Court must impose for a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c), as charged in count 3 of the indictment, is a Five-year term of imprisonment, which must run consecutive to any other sentence of imprisonment imposed on defendant, a fine of \$250,000, and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- c. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence the district court can impose for a violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2)—Felon in Possession of a Firearm, as charged in Count 4, is: Ten years imprisonment; up to three years of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- d. Defendant understands, therefore, that the total maximum sentence for all offenses to which defendant is pleading guilty is: 20 years imprisonment; a lifetime period of supervised release; a fine of \$750,000; and a mandatory special assessment of \$300.
- e. Defendant understands that under 21 U.S.C. § 862a, he will not be eligible for assistance under state programs funded under the Social Security Act or Federal Food Stamp Act or for federal food stamp program benefits, and that any such benefits or assistance received by defendant's family members will be reduced to reflect defendant's ineligibility.

- 7. <u>Parole Abolished</u>: Defendant acknowledges that defendant's prison sentence cannot be shortened by early release on parole because parole has been abolished.
- 8. Supervised Release: Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the offenses that resulted in the term of supervised release, which could result in defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.
- 9. <u>Factors under 18 U.S.C.</u> § 3553: Defendant understands that the district court must consider the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) in determining defendant's sentence. However, the statutory maximum sentence and any statutory minimum sentence limit the district court's discretion in determining defendant's sentence.
- 10. Potential Collateral Consequences of Conviction: Defendant understands that, by pleading guilty, defendant may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm, the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury. Defendant understands that once the district court accepts defendant's guilty pleas, it will be a federal felony for defendant to possess a firearm or ammunition.

 Defendant understands that the conviction in this case may also subject defendant to various other collateral consequences, including but not limited to revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release in another case and suspension or revocation of a professional license.

 Defendant understands that unanticipated collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas.

V. FACTUAL BASIS

- 11. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of the offenses to which defendant is agreeing to plead guilty. Defendant acknowledges that if defendant elected to go to trial instead of pleading guilty, the USAO could prove defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Defendant further acknowledges that defendant's admissions and declarations of fact set forth below satisfy every element of the charged offenses. Defendant waives any potential future claim that the facts defendant admitted below are insufficient to satisfy the elements of the charged offenses. Defendant admits and declares under penalty of perjury that the facts set forth below are true and correct:
- 12. On or about May 31, 2019, while driving near Las Vegas, Nevada, and within Nevada's state borders, I was the passenger in a vehicle stopped by Nevada Highway Patrol. At the time, I knowingly possessed two loaded firearms next to my left leg: a Taurus Millennium 9 MM handgun, bearing serial number TJM60423, and a Springfield Arms XD 40, bearing serial number MC146256. I possessed the firearms despite knowing that, as a convicted felon, I could not lawfully possess firearms. Specifically, I was previously convicted of Delivery of a Controlled Substance, in the District Court of North Dakota, on or about May 4, 2016, in case number 51-2016-CR-00956.
- Namely, at the time of this traffic stop, I knowingly and intentionally possessed with the intent to distribute a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of marijuana, a Schedule I Controlled Substance. I carried approximately 366 grams of marijuana, which I intended to distribute, in addition to 149 grams of heroin, and approximately 3,000 grams of methamphetamine.

VI. SENTENCING FACTORS

14. <u>Discretionary Nature of Sentencing Guidelines</u>: Defendant understands that in determining defendant's sentence, the district court is required to calculate the applicable sentencing guidelines range and to consider that range, possible departures under the sentencing guidelines, and the other sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Defendant understands that the sentencing guidelines are advisory only, that defendant cannot have any expectation of receiving a sentence within the calculated sentencing guidelines range, and that after considering the sentencing guidelines and the other § 3553(a) factors, the district court will be free to exercise its discretion to impose any sentence it finds appropriate, subject to the mandatory minimum term of five years in count 2, and including up to the maximum set by statute for convictions in counts 1 and 2.

15. Offense Level Calculations: The parties jointly agree and stipulate that, in calculating Defendant's advisory guidelines sentencing range, the Court should use the following base offense level and adjustments; acknowledge that these stipulations do not bind the district court;

Count & Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana

Base Offense Level [USSG § 2D1.1(c)(17)]:

Count 4. Felon in Possession of a Firearm

Base Offense Level [USSG § 2K2.1(a)(4)]:

Adjusted Offense Level 20

Following Acceptance of Responsibility 17

16. <u>Career Offender</u>: Defendant understands that defendant's offense level could be increased if defendant is a career offender under USSG §§ 4B1.1 and 4B1.2. If defendant's

14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23 24 offense level is so altered, defendant and the USAO will not be bound by the agreement to Sentencing Guideline factors set forth above.

17. Reduction for Acceptance of Responsibility: Under USSG § 3E1.1(a), the USAO will recommend that defendant receive a two-level downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility unless defendant (a) fails to truthfully admit facts establishing a factual basis for the guilty pleas when defendant enters the pleas; (b) fails to truthfully admit facts establishing the amount of restitution owed when defendant enters the guilty pleas; (c) fails to truthfully admit facts establishing the forfeiture allegations when defendant enters the guilty pleas; (d) provides false or misleading information to the USAO, the Court, Pretrial Services, or the Probation Office; (e) denies involvement in the offenses or provides conflicting statements regarding defendant's involvement or falsely denies or frivolously contests conduct relevant to the offenses; (f) attempts to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas; (g) commits or attempts to commit any crime; (h) fails to appear in court; or (i) violates the conditions of pretrial release.

Under USSG § 3E1.1(b), if the district court determines that defendant's total offense level before operation of § 3E1.1(a) is 16 or higher, and if the USAO recommends a two-level downward adjustment pursuant to the preceding paragraph, the USAO will move for an additional one-level downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility before sentencing because defendant communicated defendant's decision to plead guilty in a timely manner that enabled the USAO to avoid preparing for trial and to efficiently allocate its resources.

- Criminal History Category. Defendant acknowledges that the district court may 18. base defendant's sentence in part on defendant's criminal record or criminal history. The district court will determine defendant's criminal history category under the sentencing guidelines.
- 19. Additional Sentencing Information: The stipulated sentencing guidelines calculations are based on information now known to the parties. Defendant understands that

both defendant and the USAO are free to (a) supplement the facts in this agreement by supplying relevant information to the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Offices and the district court regarding the nature, scope, and extent of defendant's criminal conduct and any aggravating or mitigating facts or circumstances; and (b) correct any and all factual misstatements relating to the district court's sentencing guidelines calculations and determination of sentence. While this paragraph permits both the USAO and defendant to submit full and complete factual information to the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Offices and the district court, even if that factual information may be viewed as inconsistent with the facts agreed to in this agreement, this paragraph does not affect defendant's and the USAO's obligations not to contest the facts agreed to in this agreement. Good faith efforts to provide truthful information or to correct factual misstatements shall not be grounds for defendant to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas.

Defendant acknowledges that the U.S. Probation Office may calculate the sentencing guidelines differently and may rely on additional information it obtains through its investigation. Defendant also acknowledges that the district court may rely on this and other additional information as it calculates the sentencing guidelines range and makes other sentencing determinations, and the district court's reliance on such information shall not be grounds for defendant to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas.

VII. POSITIONS REGARDING SENTENCING

- 20. The USAO will recommend that the district court sentence defendant within the statutory permissible sentencing range produced by the charges. Defendant may argue for any statutorily permissible sentence, including, possibly, for a downward variance, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553.
- 21. Defendant acknowledges that the district court does not have to follow the recommendation of either party.

h. The right to pursue any affirmative defenses, Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and any other pretrial motions that have been filed or could be filed.

IX. WAIVER OF APPELLATE RIGHTS

- 25. Waiver of Appellate Rights. Defendant knowingly and expressly waives: (a) the right to appeal any sentence imposed within or below the applicable Sentencing Guideline range as determined by the district court; (b) the right to appeal the manner in which the district court determined that sentence on the grounds set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742; and (c) subject solely to the exceptions listed in the next paragraph, the right to appeal any other aspect of the conviction, including but not limited to the constitutionality of the statutes of conviction; any other aspect of the sentence; and any order of restitution or forfeiture.
- 26. Defendant reserves only the right to appeal any portion of the sentence that is an upward variance from the applicable Sentencing Guideline range as determined by the district court.
- 27. <u>Waiver of Post-Conviction Rights</u>. Defendant also knowingly and expressly waives all collateral challenges, including any claims under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, to defendant's conviction, sentence, and the procedure by which the district court adjudicated guilt and imposed sentence, except non-waivable claims of ineffective assistance of counsel.
- 28. <u>Preservation of Evidence</u>: Defendant acknowledges that the USAO and the agencies investigating this case are not obligated or required to preserve any evidence obtained in the investigation of this case.

X. RESULT OF WITHDRAWAL OF GUILTY PLEAS OR VACATUR/REVERSAL/SET-ASIDE OF CONVICTIONS

29. <u>Consequence of withdrawal of guilty pleas</u>: Defendant agrees that if, after entering guilty pleas pursuant to this agreement, defendant seeks to withdraw and succeeds in withdrawing defendant's guilty pleas on any basis other than a claim and finding that entry into

this agreement was involuntary, then (a) the USAO will be relieved of all of its obligations under this agreement and (b) should the USAO choose to pursue any charge or any allegation of a prior conviction for a serious drug felony that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, then (i) any applicable statute of limitations will be tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action; and (ii) defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.

30. Consequence of vacatur, reversal, or set-aside: Defendant agrees that if any count

30. Consequence of vacatur, reversal, or set-aside: Defendant agrees that if any count of conviction is vacated, reversed, or set aside, the USAO may: (a) ask the district court to resentence defendant on any remaining counts of conviction, with both the USAO and defendant being released from any stipulations regarding sentencing contained in this agreement; (b) ask the district court to void the entire plea agreement and vacate defendant's guilty pleas on any remaining counts of conviction, with both the USAO and defendant being released from all their obligations under this agreement; or (c) leave defendant's remaining convictions, sentence, and plea agreement intact. Defendant agrees that the choice among these three options rests in the exclusive discretion of the USAO, and that, should the USAO choose to pursue any charge that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, then (i) any applicable statute of limitations will be tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action; and (ii) defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.

XII. BREACH OF AGREEMENT

- 31. Defendant agrees that if, at any time after this agreement becomes effective, defendant knowingly violates or fails to perform any of defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO may declare this agreement breached. All of defendant's obligations are material, a single breach of this agreement is sufficient for the USAO to declare a breach, and defendant shall not be deemed to have cured a breach without the express agreement of the USAO in writing. If the USAO declares this agreement breached, and the district court finds such a breach to have occurred, then: (a) if defendant has previously entered guilty pleas pursuant to this agreement, defendant will remain bound by the provisions of this agreement and will not be able to withdraw the guilty pleas, and (b) the USAO will be relieved of all its obligations under this agreement.
- 32. Following the Court's finding of a knowing breach of this agreement by defendant, should the USAO choose to pursue any charge that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, then:
- a. Defendant agrees that any applicable statute of limitations is tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action.
- b. Defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.
- c. Defendant agrees that: (i) any statements made by defendant, under oath, at the guilty plea hearing (if such a hearing occurred prior to the breach); (ii) the agreed to factual basis statement in this agreement; and (iii) any evidence derived from such statements, shall be admissible against defendant in any such action against defendant, and defendant waives and

gives up any claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, Federal Rule of Evidence 410, Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(f), or any other federal rule, that the statements or any evidence derived from the statements should be suppressed or are inadmissible.

XIII. COURT AND UNITED STATES PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE NOT PARTIES.

- 33. Defendant understands that the Court and the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office are not parties to this agreement and need not accept any of the USAO's sentencing recommendations or the parties' agreements to facts or sentencing factors.
- 34. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are free to argue on appeal and collateral review that the district court's sentencing guidelines calculations and the sentence it chooses to impose are not error.
- 35. Defendant understands that even if the district court ignores any sentencing recommendation, finds facts or reaches conclusions different from those agreed to by the parties, or imposes any sentence up to the maximum established by statute, defendant cannot, for that reason, withdraw defendant's guilty pleas, and defendant will remain bound to fulfill all defendant's obligations under this agreement. Defendant understands that no one—not the prosecutor, defendant's attorney, or the Court—can make a binding prediction or promise regarding the sentence defendant will receive, except that it will be within the statutory maximum.

XIV. ADDITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 36. The Defendant acknowledges that:
- a. Defendant read this agreement and defendant understands its terms and conditions.
- b. Defendant had adequate time to discuss this case, the evidence, and this agreement with defendant's attorney.

- c. Defendant carefully and thoroughly discussed all terms of this agreement with defendant's attorney.
- d. Defendant understands the terms of this agreement and voluntarily agrees to those terms.
- e. Defendant has discussed with defendant's attorney the following: the evidence; defendant's rights; possible pretrial motions that might be filed; possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial; the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. 3553(a); the relevant sentencing guidelines provisions; and consequences of entering into this agreement.
- f. The representations contained in this agreement are true and correct, including the factual basis for defendant's offenses set forth in this agreement.
- g. Defendant was not under the influence of any alcohol, drug, or medicine that would impair defendant's ability to understand the agreement when defendant considered signing this agreement and when defendant signed it.
- 37. Defendant understands that defendant alone decides whether to plead guilty or go to trial, and acknowledges that defendant has decided to enter defendant's guilty pleas knowing of the charges brought against defendant, defendant's possible defenses, and the benefits and possible detriments of proceeding to trial.
- 38. Defendant understands that no promises, understandings, or agreements other than those set forth in this agreement have been made or implied by defendant, defendant's attorney, or the USAO, and no additional promises, agreements, or conditions shall have any force or effect unless set forth in writing and signed by all parties or confirmed on the record before the district court.
- 39. Defendant acknowledges that defendant decided to plead guilty voluntarily and that no one threatened, coerced, or forced defendant to enter into this agreement.

Defendant is satisfied with the representation of defendant's attorney, and defendant is 1 pleading guilty because defendant is guilty of the charges and chooses to take advantage of the 2 3 promises set forth in this agreement and for no other reason. XV. PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING 4 The parties agree that this agreement will be considered part of the record of 5 40. defendant's guilty plea hearing as if the entire agreement had been read into the record of the 6 proceeding. AGREED AND ACCEPTED UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA 10 NICHOLAS A. TRUTANICH 11 United States Attorney 12 Shaheen P. Torgoley 13 Assistant United States Attorney 14 15 16 Brandon Patton Defendant 17 18 2/12/2020 19 Assistant Federal Public Defender 20 Attorney for Defendant Brandon Patton 21 22

23